

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

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Claim 1 (previously presented): An apparatus for controlling playback according to program ratings, in a video/audio recording/playback controlling apparatus for reproducing signals from a recording medium in which a video signal having program rating data is recorded, the apparatus comprising:

a decoder for decoding the program rating data to generate decoded program rating data;

a controller for generating a first control signal for blocking a video/audio signal if a viewable program rating set by a user is lower than the rating of the decoded program rating data, and for generating a second control signal if a signal indicating a new program is detected; and

a tape speed controller for executing a high-speed search mode when the controller generates the first control signal, and for executing the general playback mode when the controller generates the second control signal.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of controlling playback according to program ratings, in a video/audio recording/playback controlling method of reproducing signals from a recording medium in which a video signal having program rating data is recorded, the method comprising the steps of:

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(a) extracting program rating data from the video signal reproduced from the recording medium;

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(b) comparing a viewable program rating set by a user with the rating of decoded program data extracted in step (a);

(c) stopping output of a video/audio signal and [executing] controlling a tape speed controller to execute a high-speed search mode, if the set viewable program rating is lower than the rating of the extracted program rating data, otherwise, executing a normal playback mode;

(d) determining whether a new recorded program has been reached, while the high-speed search mode is being executed; and

(e) converting the high-speed search mode into the normal playback mode if a new recorded program has been reached, and then repeating the steps (a) through (d).

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the determination in step (d) whether the new recorded program has been reached is made by a determination of whether a video index search system (VISS) signal is detected, made using the duty of a control signal.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, further including:
a data slicer for extracting only the program rating data from the video signal in a general playback mode and outputting the program rating data to the decoder.

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Amend Claim 5 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the signal indicating
the new program is a video index search system (VISS) signal.
